

81 1000°C and the thermal conductivity of the cubic boron nitride sintered compact, at the said edge
part, is 250 to 1000 W/m · K.

9. (Amended) A process for the production of a sintered compact for a cutting tool
72 containing cubic boron nitride with an average grain diameter of at most 1 μm , which comprises
reducing and nitriding [a compound containing] boron oxide or boric acid [and oxygen] in the
presence of carbon and nitrogen to synthesize a low pressure phase boron nitride and subjecting
the resulting low pressure phase boron nitride, as a starting material, to direct conversion into
cubic boron nitride at a high temperature and high pressure, while simultaneously sintering.

Please cancel claim 2 ✓

REMARKS

Applicants submit that by the present Amendment and Remarks, this application is placed in clear condition for immediate allowance. At the least, the present Amendment places this application in better condition for Appeal. Accordingly entry of the present Amendment and Remarks, and favorable consideration, are respectfully solicited pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

A clean of amended claims 1 and 9 appears in the Appendix hereto.

Claims 1 and 4 through 10 are pending in this application. In response to the Office Action dated October 26, 2001, claims 1 and 9 have been amended and claim 2 cancelled. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Indeed, the amendment to claim 1 merely incorporates limitations from claim 2 therein, and hence, cancels claim 2. The